

Idaho State Group Insurance Advisory Committee
November 20, 2009
Meeting Minutes

The November 20, 2009 meeting of the Idaho State Group Insurance Advisory Committee was held in Conference Room 155, LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Senator Charles Coiner
Representative Anne Pasley-Stuart
Director Mike Gwartney
Dirk Humiston, Retired Employee
Betsy Johnson, Active Employee
Andrea Patterson, Judiciary Representative

Others Present:

Teresa Luna, Chief of Staff, Department of Administration
Cynthia Ness, Program Manager, Department of Administration
Connie Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Administration
Rebecca Fry, HR Manager, Department of Administration
Melissa Vandenberg, Attorney General, Department of Administration
Margaret Odedo, Management Assistant, Department of Administration

WELCOME

Director Gwartney welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Representative Anne Pasley-Stuart moved to approve the minutes as written for the September 23, 2009 Idaho State Group Insurance Advisory Committee. Seconded by Betsy Johnson.

Committee Members and Terms: Ms. Luna started the discussion by providing a few options of terms for committee members. Meeting schedule was suggested to meet quarterly. After lengthy discussion, members agreed that a three (3) year term would be appropriate, with the third year being a "roll off". The committee will meet more often as needed. A draft will be provided to all members containing term language to be discussed at the next meeting.

Retiree Communication Update: Cynthia Ness reviewed our communications efforts to date indicating that we now have 1,390 retirees left on the plan. We continue to work with retirees that are having some difficulties understanding the change. Ms. Luna noted that as we get mail back we are calling and researching for new addresses, and re-sending items. It is estimated that we will have approximately 860 left on the plan after December 31st 2009. Ms. Luna indicated that we may need to visit nursing homes for those addresses indicating so. We will continue to work with those who have not moved off until the end of February. PERSI has added a fourth carrier for those retirees who want to use sick leave to pay for premiums. PERSI may be able to add a few more. Director Gwartney encouraged members to continue to refer individuals to the Office of Group Insurance that may have difficulties understanding the change.

Part-time Benefits - Ms. Rebecca Fry provided an overview of the part-time change information that went out to all HR representatives earlier in the year. The effective date for all coding to be completed is the end of November. A verification summary was also reviewed explaining that this is the report that Ms. Fry will be using for auditing purposes. She will continue to work with agencies as some may have a person working in more than one position, or more than one agency. Senator Coiner asked if we are asking Departments to document how this is affecting the agencies. It would be nice to see if they are combining two temporary positions to create one full time position; are efficiencies being made, and salary cost savings being realized? Director Gwartney said that we will follow up with that.

It was suggested that a Benefits Statement be available to give to employees so that they understand the true value of the benefit package that they receive. Ms. Ness will put a statement together and bring to the next meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Prescription Drug Rules: Melissa Vandenberg explained that the Office of Group Insurance is required to write rules pursuant to HB173. She then reviewed the eligibility requirements for our retirees to qualify for a subsidy and explained that the Director will be the first to review any appeal for those denied, however an individual will have the right to come to the committee to appeal the denial. Ms. Luna wanted to clarify that the subsidy does not lower the \$4000 donut hole that some will fall into, this is only a way to help them save up or plan better to meet the Medicare Part D obligations for catastrophic issues. Individuals applying for the subsidy will need to provide receipts and other proof if asked.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Luna provided information on a new webpage which is located within Group Insurance's web-site where all information regarding the committee agenda's and minutes will be posted.

The meeting adjourned 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted



Margaret Odedo